



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**MEETING DATE:** September 5, 2023  
**PREPARED BY:** Derek Asche, Water Resources Engineer  
**AGENDA ITEM:** Conservation Partners Legacy Grant

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**PREVIOUS ACTIONS:**  
None

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**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Motion to approve the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant and authorize its execution by the Mayor and City Clerk.

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**COMMENTS:**

During planning for the South Fork Rush Creek Stream Restoration, it was noted there is potential for four acres of forest restoration adjacent to the South Fork Rush Creek stream restoration project. This forest is mature, having existed for nearly 100 years, and is classified as a Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest with a canopy of bur oak, basswood, green ash, boxelder, and elm with a few black cherry, sugar maple, red oak, and ironwood species.

Threats to the forest include Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), buckthorn, garlic mustard, and creeping charlie. This project will enhance and protect the forest through invasive shrub removal, selective tree removal followed by tree planting, ground layer seeding, and invasive plant spot treatments. The activities will improve habitat for migratory and resident songbirds, pollinators and a variety of other forest dwelling species.

This project is adjacent to the proposed South Fork Rush Creek Stream Restoration Project and future Three Rivers Park District trail. It is proposed by staff to be completed in parallel with the stream restoration during 2023-2024 growing seasons.

The estimated project cost is \$44,620, including a \$5,000 city match. Funding is proposed to be split between the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant and the storm water utility fund as follows:

1. Conservation Partners Legacy Program - \$39,620
  2. Storm Water Utility Fund - \$5,000
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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program contract

Attachment B: Project location map